

BUZNEDES

This is Charles Ward, I am Assistant District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans, and today is March 18, 1967, and we are in the apartment of Stuart Medwin in Denver, Colorado, and present is myself, Charles Ward, Stuart Medwin, Bill Kaufman, and Julian Buznedo. It is approximately 5:02 Pacific Time.

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Q. JULIAN, when you talked with DAVE FERRIE quite a bit before, did he conform most of his activities with the Cuban Revolutionary Front and I know that he knew you, ARCACHA SMITH, and others. I am interested in the overthrow of FIDEL CASTRO and we know that DAVE FERRIE had made several trips to Cuba in the past carrying guns and ammunition in his airplane and we spoke with FERRIE and he identified you and others who he knew were working through this Cuban Front Movement of which I think ARCACHA SMITH was the, at least, the head in New Orleans. Is that Correct?

A. That's right.

Q. How long did you know ARCACHA SMITH?

A. Well, I met ARCACHA in the fall of 1961, right after the Bay of Pigs' Invasion.

Q. I just want to make one thing clear, JULIAN, we are not interested in making any type of charges against you and I thing if any charges would arise, I think..... you can call me so you can relax if you think there may be any concern on your part that may occur here in Louisiana. Now you have full immunity and I just want to talk freely with you and I think maybe you may be of some help, I hope so any way.....We spoke with ARCACHA in Dallas and he is a rotten stoop.....he is particularly a rotten stoop about his association with DAVE FERRIE.....It was my impression that ARCACHA was more of a solicitor than an organizer and I think he may have capitalized on this movement in New Orleans. Were you familiar with any of his activities in New Orleans?

A. Well, I met ARCACHA.....he was pretty upset after the Bay of Pigs failed.

Q. Did you know ARCACHA before the Bay of Pigs' Invasion?

A. No, I met him in Miami.

Q. And that was after the Bay of Pigs' Invasion?

A. Right, that's correct.

Q. Did you meet DAVE FERRIE through ARCACHA?

A. Yes, that's right, that the way it is.

Q. And where did you meet DAVE FERRIE?

A. Well, I think in ARCACHA'S house?

Q. Was that in New Orleans or Metairie?

A. New Orleans.

Q. Do you recall approximately the year you met DAVE FERRIE?

A. Well, it was in the fall of 1961, in 1961.

Q. How long after was it before he took you to the place he resides?

A. Well, really, I can't really be sure, I think it was around June or August, June, July, or August, I suppose it was around that time.

Q. And did you become very well acquainted with DAVE FERRIE?

A. Well, here is the situation. MR. FERRIE owns a plane. He used to run in a Stinson. And in Cuba, I was a prize fighter and when I came here after the Bay of Pigs' Invasion, it was very difficult for me to get a good job. Practical my language was bad and in the Bay of Pigs' Invasion.....I was offered a camera and I took some pictures of some fights.....I was in Miami at the time I developed these pictures and the reason I met ARCACHA is because somebody cannot.....very suspicious .....magazine. Actually, in America, you get better money. There is no doubt. However,.....in the time in the beginning, there was so many controversy about the invasion and so on and so forth. Any how, the way I met ARCACHA and then I met FERRIE a little later, we went into a room, and this is ARCACHA talking. We can actually make a (?), it is easy to do. We can.....of the Bay of Pigs' Invasion and that would really be fantastic because nobody would have any pictures of the whole thing. So.....I met ARCACHA and the chief of Eastern Airlines and he is really tremendous, he let me fly the airplane, he is actually helping me with the gas and everything else.

Q. Who is that?

A. ARCACHA.....at the same time you can help us do the work, actually you can help fly the plane. I can even talk to the Captain and tell him you are the pilot from Cuba, and you were in the Bay of Pigs and I said very, very, sure that you will let me fly the plane and you will actually be able to make something of it....This is the requirement in the policy, you have to get at least \$35 to become private and from there on \$200 until you become commercial and it is very expensive and difficult if you fly a plane, it costs you about \$12,050 depending on the machine that you fly.....To fly with FERRIE, it costs you about \$5.00 an hour..... and he was rooming with a fellow called CARLOS LOPEZ.....in the Bay of Pigs and we were.....

Q. When did you move to New Orleans?

A. Right after I met ARCACHA. Actually, I can't remember now but it was not too far away from May, June, July, somewhere around there.

Q. In 1961?

A. '61, right. Then after we get over there, ARCACHA met a man who was supposed to be a writer. We have to write a lot of papers and eventually the writer says he needs more information. It seems the information I gave myself on CARLOS LOPEZ and also on a boy called ENRICHIA FREITA (phonetically spelled), he was a Cuban and he was a participant in the Bay of Pigs. He said that was not enough. Any how, at that time, I have to leave back to Miami because my friends was not in the country and he was expecting them to arrive at any time.

Q. Where were your friends?

A. They were in Havana, Cuba. Well, you know, they were on the, you know, fixing the papers to see if they could leave. And since my friends couldn't speak English, it was necessary that someone be there to help them out in the translation and so on and so forth. And so, I went back to Miami.

Q. What year was that?

A. That was still in '61. CARLOS LOPEZ remained in New Orleans and he was working prior to him giving some information to the writer. Any how,

Q. Who was the writer?

A. I really can't remember the name, but ARCACHA I am sure could probably tell you. I understand one time he mentioned he was a very religious man.

Q. ARCACHA?

A. No, no, no, this writer. But, I really don't remember his name, it was very difficult, it was tricky. Any how, I moved to Miami. I was in Miami at the time.....something happened to ARCACHA....we figured we could actually get.....there was not enough sufficient information..... of the decompression, so the whole thing won't blow up. But, between you and me, this is where I think I met FERRIE and FERRIE was really a very, very, fantastic guy to my concern.....We can get planes, we can actually go to the John British Society and tell a lot of people who were there what happened in the Bay of Pigs. And (?) will be glad to help again.

Q. Did you meet FERRIE in 1961?

A. Yes, 1961, that's the time I met him.

Q. Where did you meet him?

A. I don't remember, I think it was in his home, in ARCACHA'S home.

Q. You recall the street that was on?

A. Well, that was in.....112..... that was the first place that I met ARCACHA.

Q. Where did you meet DAVE FERRIE?

- A. Well, it was in his home.
- Q. You mean, you met him at ARCACHA'S house?
- Q. Did you ever go to DAVE FERRIE'S home on Louisiana Avenue Parkway?
- A. Well, actually, I'll try to remember. The address is 3330 Louisiana, second floor in New Orleans. Now, this address was given to me because I was in front of the captain.....from the former address 331 African Drive.
- Q. When you say captain, are you referring to DAVE FERRIE?
- A. Yes,.....but I don't really remember seeing a piece of bombing. However, I remember I was looking for the address on Louisiana.....I have to have something to forward to this address. I never actually get to go to this apartment.
- Q. ....opportunity to the New Orleans Airport?
- A. ....used to be used in the Second War in (?) and Viet Nam.....
- Q. FERRIE'S house that you went, was it near the airport?
- A. I don't think so. The address I had on ARCACHA was 331 African Drive, Metairie.
- Q. What did you say he had in his backyard?
- A. Yes, he had a couple of scuba diver's equipments..... He thinks we can go to Cuba, swim by the shore,....by way of submarine, jump into it and scuba into the.....and sneak into the country. He has many, many, ways to get into (?). He has a plane, a model plane, with special controls. They don't have another plane like that. Any how, nobody would take care of the plane. Nobody would have to fly the actual plane, it is controlled by remote control. I will be in Cuba.....after FIDEL CASTRO makes his speech in Havana.....
- Q. Did you know him before he was terminated by Eastern Airlines?
- A. Yes, in (?), I received a letter one time and I was in Miami at that time when this happened and even ARCACHA wrote me a letter and sent me a piece from the newspaper saying FERRIE was accused of being in on the (?)..... However, ARCACHA, he was kind of doubtful.
- Q. Were you ever familiar with any of FERRIE'S activities in the Civil Air Patrol in New Orleans?
- A. Well, I think he mentioned a long time ago.....Civil Air Patrol but I never get to do anything on it, he never let me drive one of his planes.
- Q. Did he ever mention anything about a training ground across Lake Pontchartrain in a wooded area called Slidell?
- A. No.

- Q. Did you ever hear anything of the existence of a training ground or a re-invasion of Cuba north of Lake Pontchartrain in Slidell, Louisiana?
- A. No, I don't remember anything.
- Q. Were you taken into FERRIE'S confidence?
- A. Yes,.....
- Q. Did FERRIE have faith in you and devulge information to you of a confidential nature?
- A. Well, actually if he had something very secret to say and he wanted me to listen, I would.
- Q. Did he ever disclose confidential information to you that wasn't to be disclosed to other people?
- A. In other words, you mean something I wouldn't tell to someone else.....
- Q. Who was that?
- A. I don't know. I have been looking over my papers but I'm almost sure that ARCACHA would remember his name.
- Q. Is he from Cuba?
- A. No, no, he's American and that's how I met ARCACHA because I don't think ARCACHA had any knowledge of flying the planes. This boy was using FERRIE'S plane to become a pilot. He was flying and making some time and that's how he really enthused me about the whole idea.....you can fly with me, we can cheer the president, we can have a good time, and soon you will be able to fly your own airplane, and get an opportunity to have to have a job. In fact, the captain is flying for Eastern Airlines.
- Q. Did you know FERRIE after he was suspended by Eastern Airlines?
- A. Well, yes, that was actually back in '64.....
- Q. Where did you see him?
- A. Well, I went to New Orleans it was very difficult to get a job.....so it was around Mardi Gras time. I went back to New Orleans and I saw ARCACHA again and I tell him I didn't have an opportunity to get a job.
- Q. JULIAN, think back to the date, Mardi Gras usually occurs in February or March. Now, was it the Mardi Gras after you met FERRIE in '61 or could it have been the Mardi Gras of '63, around March of '63?
- A. No, last Mardi Gras, '62.
- Q. '62?
- A. I am perfectly sure it was in '62.

- Q. Was it definitely after FERRIE was suspended as an Eastern Airlines Pilot?
- A. Well, let me think. Well, the thing is, last Mardi Gras I came back again.
- Q. I wonder how I could have the definite time he was suspended?
- A. I really cannot tell for sure, cause I went back to Miami and then I came back to New Orleans again, in fact, the last time I came, I came with a boy called ENRICHIA FREITA (phonetically spelled).
- Q. How is that spelled? ENRICHIA?
- A. Last name. C E I J A S
- Q. Where does he live in New Orleans?
- A. Well,.....I had been at ARCACHA'S house often.....
- Q. Let's go back t o when you went to FERRIE'S house and he drove you to the airport, is this when he lived on Louisiana Avenue Parkway?
- A. No, no, this is after Louisiana Avenue Parkway.
- Q. Did you ever see him at the Airport after that?
- A. Yes, in fact, one of the pictures I have of him is where he's with a uniform. I went to the Airport with the American boy, who used to fly his plane and we see the captain and we say "Hi Cap", and I just happened to have my camera and I took a picture of him. That's the one you have in your hand now.
- Q. When was that taken JULIAN?
- A. I think that was in '61.
- Q. Do you know when this picture was taken, that's you and FERRIE, is that FERRIE'S airplane?
- A. That's FERRIE'S airplane, the other one is a Biska (phonetically spelled).....and.....
- Q. And when did you say that picture was taken?
- A. In '62. That was right after Mardi Gras of 1962.
- Q. Did you ever visit FERRIE with a uniform, something like a fatigue uniform in his tenor(?) apartment?
- A. Not at all, not at all. The few times I was visiting in his apartment, he was just wearing normal clothes..
- Q. How long did you stay in New Orleans?
- A. Well, off and on, I was working for Schwegmann's Giant Super Markets, which is one of the biggest markets over there.
- Q. What type of work did you do?

- A. I was working in the Chicken Department. I was wrapping chickens.....and I was working with a bunch of old ladies and they were real sweet people.
- Q. What year was that?
- A. That was in '66. I think that was around March, if I am not making a mistake, March or April, somewhere around there.....and there was an old lady, real nice, .....I had to go back to Cuba and Miami because I had some immigration papers to take care of and I was in Miami.....
- Q. Can you recall the month that you left New Orleans?
- A. No, I think that was the month of June, April, May, somewhere around there.
- Q. That year was 1962?
- A. 1962.
- Q. Did you return to New Orleans any time after that?
- A. After that I never went back.
- Q. After you left New Orleans, did you return to Miami?
- A. Yes, I did.
- Q. And where did you stay in Miami?
- A. Well, 721, wait a minute I think I gave you the wrong address.....N.E. 121.....My father was working for a place called (?) Market....
- Q. Were you working?
- A. No, myself, no.
- Q. How long have you lived in Miami?
- A. Well, I really don't know.
- Q. Have you ever worked in (?) ?
- A. No, no sir.
- Q. This year was in 1962?
- A. It was in 1962, yes, that's correct.
- Q. And conclude what you have done?
- A. Well, I can't remember.....I went all the way to (?) Kentucky. I made an application over there and I started working for (?).....
- Q. What type of work did you do there?
- A. ....shorthand and things.....



- Q. How long did you stay there?
- A. It was almost a year and from there on.....that was in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Q. Do you recall the address of (?) ?
- A. No, I don't have it here.
- Q. And how long did you say you worked for(?) ?
- A. Well, almost I think it was over a year.....Crosset Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.....
- Q. You recall the address of the company?
- A. ....
- Q. And how long did you work for them?
- A. It was terrific job, I lost twenty pounds, I was a skinny thing.....
- Q. What time of the month did you make your last (?) ?
- A. Well, let me think, I think it was about probably maybe earlier maybe September because I took a Greyhound Bus from Cincinnati, Ohio, and then.....
- Q. Do you recall what month?
- A. ....
- Q. And that was in 1963?
- A. Yes, 1963, that I came over here and decided to look for a job.....I worked in a Mexican Restaurant and about three days there then I saw an ad in the paper, they were offering a good job so I went and made an application for them.....
- Q. What was the time between your employment at Crosset and your employment at (?) ?
- A. I suppose it was about a couple of weeks , three weeks maybe something like that.
- Q. Would it be possible that you went to New Orleans during that time?
- A. No, not at all.
- Q. How are you traveling?
- A. By bus, by Greyhound Bus.....it was in 1963, in the beginning of '63.....after I was working for the compression company.....
- Q. Did you ever become acquainted with any of FERRIE'S friends or roommates when you were in New Orleans?
- A. Well, I don't think he had any roommates. I understand he was living with his mother in Metairie. I never get to see his mother.....

- Q. Approximately how many times did you visit FERRIE while he lived in Metairie, Louisiana?
- A. A total of three times.
- Q. Was there anything unusual about his house there?
- A. No, not at all. Nothing exciting about it, it was a normal home.
- Q. Did you have occasion to know of FERRIE'S friends that lived here?
- A. No, not really, the only time I went to (?) I was with ENRICA FREITA (phonetically spelled).....owns little money....everytime I went, FERRIE was there and I was with a girl.
- Q. What was her name?
- A. She was called MARIA.
- Q. Do you know any other name?
- A. No.
- Q. Is this your girlfriend?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know her last name?
- A. Well, it was NICHOLAS.
- Q. Do you know where she is at this time?
- A. No sir, I don't.
- Q. Did you ever know a MANUEL GARCIA GONZALEZ?
- A. ....and he mentioned there was some Cubans.
- Q. Did you ever meet OSWALD while he was in New Orleans?
- A. No sir, not at all....about a week ago was the first time I even heard FERRIE was killed, no not killed, he was found in his apartment...I wasn't even aware of the whole situation.
- Q. JULIAN, I am going to show you a picture, this is a mug shot of OSWALD. He didn't have a beard on the original mug shot and I want you to take a look at it and see if you have ever seen this man before?
- A. Sure, this is the thing that came out in the papers a few weeks ago.
- Q. Does he look familiar to you in any way?
- A. No, no
- Q. JULIAN, I am going to show you a picture for identification in New Orleans, Louisiana, No. 125388, the date of March 1, 1967, have you seen it?
- A. Well, I suppose this is MR. SHAW for what I've seen in the

- Q. Well, have you ever seen him before?
- A. Well, he was always so cheerful in FERRIE'S apartment...
- Q. No, I mean personally have you ever seen him while you were in New Orleans?
- A. Not at all.
- Q. JULIAN, could you tell me the names of some of the people you met in New Orleans through ARCACHA?
- A. Yes, one was.....SENER,.....
- Q. Is that S E N T E R ?
- A. Yes, that's correct. I met him on the street with another fellow I was working.
- Q. What year was that, do you recall?
- A. I think that was in '61. I worked for the newspaper called the Time of New Orleans....and I was making political cartoons and after I met MR. PALMER, who owns a business in New Orleans, (?) Paper Company.....
- Q. Is that PALMER?
- A. Yes, P A L M E R. I don't for sure but I think I was from Nicaragua.
- Q. Can you recall how that name is spelled, the last name only?
- A. I don't know the name of the man only of the company, you can look it up in the phone book, it is an advertising company. I understand it is in Canal Street, at least on the corner, any how on Canal Street....This is where I met FERRIE, ARCACHA and there were some Cubans called Bringier.
- Q. Is that CARLOS BRINGIER?
- A. CARLOS BRINGIER, I think it was....started working for the company....and there was a lady, she was helping the Cubans...she was very helpful to my people...
- Q. The pictures that you have here taken of (?) and the men are any of these people living in New Orleans?
- A. Yes, CARLOS LOPEZ, I mentioned him to you previously; and this is ENRICHA FREITA (phonetically spelled) the fellow I was telling you before; this is the American boy, and I swear to God I can't remember his name, and I don't think it was so difficult...this, ofcourse, is ARCACHA This picture was taken by me and it was taken a few minutes before I took off going back to (?)
- Q. JULIAN, have you ever known a PERRY RUSSO?
- A. No, I read in the papers that he was a friend of someone but I never, never, remember MR. RUSSO. I do remember an insurance salesman, and he was CUBAN. His first name was DAVEY. I don't recall his last name. I think he was a friend of MR. (?) and how you say, he worked in (?)

- Q. Did you ever know a JAMES LEWALLEN?
- A. JAMES LEWALLEN, if that's his name, it doesn't sound familiar to me at all.
- Q. Did you ever know a SANDRA MOFFET, a white female here in New Orleans?
- A. SANDRA MOFFET, no.....
- Q. When was the last time you actually piloted an airplane?
- A. ....about last summer. I rented a plane. I wanted to get across the border to see Mexico and I traveled to Nicaragua and then on to Mexico State...and I rented a plane over there...and was hoping I could get across the border and see what the country looks like but we didn't do it...
- Q. Do you have a pilot's license at this time?
- A. No, not at all. I have my own papers from Cuba but I don't actually have an American license. I would have to go through details and take the time. It is very complicated.
- Q. Is there anything else you can tell me that you think might be of some help to this investigation?
- A. Well, to the best of my knowledge, I can't actually think of anything else.
- Q. O.K., the time is now 6:25 Pacific Time. We are now concluding the interview with JULIAN BUZNEDO.

THANK YOU.

